



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

Members Present: Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Mayor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

The Town Clerk called for nominations for Chairman Pro Tem. Councilor Monteiro was nominated by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti. There being no further nominations, the vote carried unanimously.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mr. Norris.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Groton 4th of July Parade Awards

Chairman Pro Tem Monteiro and Ben Morse from the Parks and Recreation Department presented awards to the winners of the Fourth of July parade competition.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

William Simpson, 600 Meridian Street Extension, Apt. 302, is a disabled veteran on social security. He received no cost-of-living increase in his social security benefits, and is alarmed that his vehicle taxes were \$40 higher than last year for the same vehicle. Mr. Simpson is also concerned by some of the meetings taking place at the Groton Library, as well as the costs associated with monthly themes such as "Elvis".

Chris Freeman, 248 North Water Street, Stonington, a board member of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber is in support of the Mystic Streetscape project. The Chamber believes that after years of planning, it is time to move forward and implement this important project.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0164 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of July 20, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0162 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Louis and Lenore Milner - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

John Marcia McGowan - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Anonymous donation - \$35.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Jeff and Lynn Callahan - \$250.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Lauren Gorham - \$10.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Priscilla Anson - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Patricia M. Ludwig - \$50.00 - Library Discretionary

Carolyn and Gene LeRoy - \$10.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Valerie Popkin and Marjorie Farmer - \$200.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Northern Lights - \$280.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Marlene Terry Ziegler - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary

Chris Waters - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Dean Eastonto - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Paul Scott - \$50.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Mystic River Homes - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary

Various Donations - \$359.55 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0133 Appointments to Noank School Reuse Task Force

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received emails regarding the Mystic Streetscape Project and an email regarding a property maintenance code.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Ledge Light Health District meeting and a Senior Center Computer Coordinating Council. She expressed her gratitude for all those who participated in the ninetieth birthday celebration for her husband, Ed Kolnaski.

2010-0171 Town Manager Annual Evaluation

Councilor Watson requested a referral for the Town Manager's evaluation.

a. Town Councilors (continued)

Councilor Johnson received a communication regarding car taxes.

The Town Manager stated that the Town utilizes recognized value guides for used vehicles, but also noted that mill rates did go up.

Councilor Johnson attended the Raheem Ali Carter Memorial Flag Football Tournament.

Chairman Pro Tem Monteiro received an email regarding discussion of transportation issues.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular meeting of the RTM will be on August 18, 2010.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk announced that Lori Watrous has completed the qualifications for certification and is now a Connecticut Certified Town Clerk. Ms. Moukawsher reminded voters who are affiliated with a party that primaries are scheduled for August 10, 2010.

d. Town Manager

The next Committee of the Whole will be rescheduled until August 17, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. The Town Manager noted that Councilors have received the 2011 Adopted Budget. The Town has received one letter of interest for the Town Historian position. Mr. Oefinger attended a preconstruction meeting for the Mystic highway bridge replacement/repair project.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti**

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

No meeting, no report.

j. Code of Ethics Task Force

Councilor Flax stated that the Code of Ethics Task Force plans to distribute its completed document to Councilors on August 17, 2010.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager gave an update on the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program at the Groton Senior Center. He stated that there will not be any break in service. The Town will continue to

administer the program until mid-to-late August, when it will be taken over by Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. The location of the program will remain unchanged.

2010-0169 Utilization of Commercial Solid Waste Fund Balance

Councilor Johnson requested a referral to discuss utilizing money currently in the waste fund to offset the new State tax for business owners. He disclosed that his father is a business owner in Town.

2010-0170 Local Vendor Bid Preference

Councilor Johnson requested a referral to review the current bidding process to determine whether the Town wants to change the way that it views bids from local businesses.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant